

Appl. No. 09/880,883
Amdt. Dated September 24, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 19 is modified by replacing former part II of that claim with a multi-segmented assembly comprising a plurality of inner members secured together end to end, the multi-segmented assembly having vertices secured to the outer rectangle and being adapted to resist lateral forces applied to the shear wall panel. Part III of claim 19 (formerly part (j)) is modified to correspond with the modified part II and states ^{that} the vertically oriented connectors are located adjacent to vertices of the multi-segmented assembly which are adjacent to the vertical members. Support for the reference to a multi-segmented assembly is found in the application at least at page 7, lines 1 to 8. Further support for the amendments to claim 19 are found at, page 8, lines 20 to 23; page 15, line 18 to page 16, line 1; and, page 17, lines 2 to 5. The Applicant submits that claim 19 reads on the embodiments of figures 11 and 12 and the embodiments of Figures 3, 4 and 5 modified according to the text at page 17, lines 2 to 5.

New claim 27 depends on claim 19 and includes the matter formerly in part II of claim 19 amended to refer to "at least four diagonal members" instead of "four continuous diagonal members". The Applicant submits that the words "at least" were implicit in claim 19 before the current amendments because of the word "comprising" immediately before it and that removal of the word "continuous" is consistent with the lack of that word in parts (f) to (i) of claim 19 before the current amendments. The Applicant submits that claim 27 reads on the embodiments of Figures 11 and 12 and the embodiments of Figures 3, 4 and 5 modified according to the text at page 17, lines 2 to 5.

New claim 28 depends on claim 27 and describes a first diagonal member extending from the first vertex to the second vertex, a second diagonal member extending from the second vertex to the third vertex, a third diagonal member extending from the third vertex to the fourth vertex and a fourth diagonal member extending from the fourth vertex to the first vertex. The Applicant submits that claim 28 is supported by and reads

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on the embodiment of Figure 11 and the embodiment of Figure 5 modified according to the text at page 17, lines 2 to 5. Claims 20 and 21 are modified to depend on claim 28 instead of claim 19 and read on the same embodiments as claim 28.

Claim 14 is modified to depend on claim 19. Claims 15 and 16 are not modified but now also depend on claim 19 through their dependence on claim 14. The Applicants submit that claims 14 to 16 read on the embodiments of figures 11 and 12 and the embodiments of Figures 3, 4 and 5 modified according to the text at page 17, lines 2 to 5.

The Applicant further submits that all claims depend on a valid generic claim (claim 19).

Claims 24 to 26 are cancelled according to the Applicant's previous election to Invention I, claims 14-23 on August 22, 2003. Claims 17, 18, 22 and 23 are also cancelled.

For the reasons given above, the Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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